CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An extensible administration tool, comprising:

a first graphical user interface (GUI) operable to provide hierarchical navigation of a tree;

a second GUI operable to provide at least one control panel;

a framework for customizing the first and second GUIs; and

wherein the at least one control panel can be activated by selection of the node in the tree.

2.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the framework comprises:

a first group of services related to extending the tree; and

a second group of services related to defining a control panel.

3.   The tool of claim 2 wherein the first group of services includes:

first functions operable to add a node to the tree; and

wherein the node can be associated with an icon and/or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

4.   The tool of claim 3 wherein:

the URL is the address of a control panel implementation.

5.   The tool of claim 2 wherein the second group of services includes:

first functions operable to create a control panel.

6.   The tool of claim 1 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node can represent a network-accessible entity that can be administratively controlled by the tool.

7.   The tool of claim 1 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node is associated with at least one of: 1) a menu; 2) another node; and 3) a control panel.

8.   The tool of claim 1 wherein:

the tree provides a graphical representation of network resources.

9.   The tool of claim 1 wherein:

the tool can be used to administer resources within an application and/or web server.

10.   The tool of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one control panel can include tabs.

11.   An extensible administration tool, comprising:

a first graphical user interface (GUI) operable to provide hierarchical navigation of a tree;

a second GUI operable to provide at least one control panel;

a framework for customizing the first and second GUIs;

wherein the at least one control panel can be activated by selection of the node in the tree; and

wherein the tool can be used to administer resources within an application and/or web server.

12.   The tool of claim 11 wherein the framework comprises:

a first group of services related to extending the tree; and

a second group of services related to defining a control panel.

13.   The tool of claim 12 wherein the first group of services includes:

first functions operable to add a node to the tree; and

wherein the node can be associated with an icon and/or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

14.   The tool of claim 13 wherein:

the URL is the address of a control panel implementation.

15.   The tool of claim 12 wherein the second group of services includes:

first functions operable to create a control panel.

16.   The tool of claim 11 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node can represent a network-accessible entity that can be administratively controlled by the tool.

17.   The tool of claim 11 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node is associated with at least one of: 1) a menu; 2) another node; and 3) a control panel.

18.   The tool of claim 11 wherein:

the tree provides a graphical representation of network resources.

19.   The tool of claim 11 wherein:

the atleast one control panel can include tabs.

20.   A method for customizing an administration tool, said method comprising:

providing a control panel wherein the control panel is operable to configure a network-accessible resource;

adding a node to a graphical representation of a resource tree;

associating the node with the control panel; and

wherein the control panel can be activated by selection of the node in the resource tree.

21.   The method of claim 20 wherein providing a control panel comprises:

implementing a Java Server Page (JSP).

22. The method of claim 20 wherein adding a node to the resource tree comprises: making the node a child of at least one other node.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node can represent a network-accessible entity that can be administratively controlled by the tool.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node is associated with at least one of: 1) a menu; 1) another node; and 3) a control panel.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein:

the tree provides a graphical representation of network resources.

26. The method of claim 20 wherein:

the tool can be used to administer resources within an application and/or a web server.

27. The method of claim 20 wherein:

the control panel can include tabs.

28. A method for customizing an administration tool, said method comprising:

providing a control panel wherein the control panel is operable to configure a network-accessible resource;

adding a node to a graphical representation of a resource tree;

associating the node with the control panel;

wherein the control panel can be activated by selection of the node in the resource tree; and

wherein the tool can be used to administer resources within an application and/or a web server.

29.   The method of claim 28 wherein providing a control panel comprises: implementing a Java Server Page (JSP).

30.   The method of claim 28 wherein adding a node to the resource tree comprises: making the node a child of at least one other node.

31.   The method of claim 28 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node can represent a network-accessible entity that can be administratively controlled by the tool.

32.   The method of claim 28 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node is associated with at least one of: 1) a menu; 1) another node; and 3) a control panel.

33.   The method of claim 28 wherein:

the tree provides a graphical representation of network resources.

34.   The method of claim 28 wherein:

the control panel can include tabs.

35.   A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

provide a control panel wherein the control panel is operable to configure a network-accessible resource;

add a node to a graphical representation of a resource tree;

associate the node with the control panel;

wherein the control panel can be activated by selection of the node in the resource tree; and

wherein the tool can be used to administer resources within an application and/or a web server.

36.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein providing a control panel comprises instructions that when executed cause the system to:

implement a Java Server Page (JSP).

37.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein adding a node to the resource tree further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:

make the node a child of at least one other node.

38.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node can represent a network-accessible entity that can be administratively controlled by the tool.

39.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

the tree contains at least one node; and

wherein the at least one node is associated with at least one of: 1) a menu; 1) another node; and 3) a control panel.

40.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

the tree provides a graphical representation of network resources.

41.   The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

the control panel can include tabs.